

## Consumer Tips

The Board suggests that consumers follow these tips prior to hiring a geologist:

- No one may represent himself to the public as a Virginia-certified geologist unless the Board has certified that individual as a Geologist.
- Check for Virginia Certification by contacting the Board for Geology or checking the DPOR Website.
- Check for past disciplinary action against the individual by checking the DPOR Website.
- Check the individual's references. Also, inquire about professional memberships, which would indicate the individual is active within the geology profession.
- Contact the Board for Geology when in doubt about an individual's certification:

(804) 367-0524 or  
[geology@dpor.virginia.gov](mailto:geology@dpor.virginia.gov)



*Bolted Mine Roof Following Collapse  
Dickinson County, Virginia  
Photo by Tom Gathright*



**Board for Geology**  
*Department of Professional and  
Occupational Regulation*

*9960 Mayland Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23233*

Phone: (804) 367-0524  
Fax: (804) 527-4297  
DPOR Website: [www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov)  
Email: [geology@dpor.virginia.gov](mailto:geology@dpor.virginia.gov)

The information in this brochure is of a general nature and shall not supersede the regulations or *Code of Virginia*.

## Board for Geology



*Small scale folds and thrust fault  
Giles County, Virginia  
Photo by Tom Gathright*



## *The Board for Geology*

Created in 1981 by an act of the Virginia General Assembly, the Board for Geology provides oversight for the more than 800 certified geologists in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Board falls under the administration of the Commonwealth's Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), whose duty is to protect the citizens of Virginia through the regulation of certain professions and occupations.



*The Lower Narrows of the New River  
Giles County, Virginia  
Photo by Tom Gathright*

Virginia's Board for Geology has five members, each appointed by the Governor. Membership includes three geologists and two citizen members. In addition, the State Geologist is an *ex officio* member. Each member may serve two consecutive four-year terms. The Board meets approximately four times per year. It reviews applications for Virginia certification and administers examinations. The Board for Geology is a member of the National Association for State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), through which it maintains accessibility to national issues and events.

## *Certification Requirements*

**To become a certified professional geologist** in the Commonwealth of Virginia, one must furnish satisfactory evidence of the following:

- *A baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university with either of the following:*
  - *A major in geology, geological engineering, or related geological sciences.*
  - *At least thirty semester hours or the equivalent in geological science courses leading to a major in geology.*
- *At least seven years of geological work experience, which includes either a minimum of three years of geological work in responsible charge or under the supervision of a qualified or certified geologist.*
- *Successful completion of the state-approved examination.*

The preceding is a general summary of the requirements for certification as a geologist. Full details are contained in the "Board for Geology Regulations and Statutes," which governs the practice of geology in Virginia.

The Board's staff provides assistance to applicants seeking certification. For application information or a copy of the regulations and statutes, contact the staff at **(804) 367-0524**, or visit the DPOR Website.

## *Examination*

Applicants for certification must apply to the Board for Geology. Applicants approved for certification also must pass an examination administered by the Board. Virginia uses the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) national examination. More information about ASBOG is available at their web site:

[www.asbog.org](http://www.asbog.org).



*Blue Ridge Plateau  
Floyd County, Virginia  
Photo by Tom Gathright*

## *Consumer Protection*

The General Assembly deemed the regulation of certain professional occupations, such as geologists, necessary to the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. In support of this, the DPOR Compliance and Investigation Division (CID) receives, reviews, and investigates all complaints against geologists. Complaints alleging improper practice by geologists or any violation of the statutes and regulations governing the practice of geology may be directed to the attention of the **DPOR CID at:**

**Telephone: (804) 367-8504**

**Fax: (804) 527-4405**

**Email: [complaintanalysis@dpor.virginia.gov](mailto:complaintanalysis@dpor.virginia.gov)**